Serial No.: 09/845,080

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Presently Amended) A method of using polymer microparticles to protect pharmaceutical effectiveness of a pharmaceutically active agent comprising:

providing a pharmaceutically acceptable suspension comprising a pharmaceutically active agent and polymer microparticles, wherein said pharmaceutically active agent and polymer microparticles are commingled within said pharmaceutically acceptable suspension; and

~~exposing~~ contacting said pharmaceutically acceptable suspension with ~~to~~ an incompatible component that is incompatible with said pharmaceutically active agent, wherein said incompatible component comprises a metal or a polymer and wherein said incompatible component is a component of a drug delivery medical device, ~~pharmaceutical article,~~ and wherein said polymer microparticles result in a pharmaceutical effectiveness of the pharmaceutically active agent that is greater than a pharmaceutical effectiveness of the pharmaceutically active agent when ~~exposed to~~ contacted with the incompatible component in the absence of the polymer microparticles.

2. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said incompatible component comprises a metal.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein said metal is selected from stainless steel and nickel-titanium superalloy.

4. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said incompatible component comprises a polymer.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein said polymer is selected from polyether ether ketone, polyimide, epoxy, nylon, acrylonitrile/butadiene/styrene polymers and polycarbonate.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said polymer microparticles result in a pharmaceutical effectiveness of the pharmaceutically active agent that is at least 10% greater than a pharmaceutical effectiveness of the pharmaceutically active agent in the absence of the polymer microparticles.

8. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said polymer microparticles are latex beads.

9. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said polymer microparticles are polystyrene microparticles.

10. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said polymer microparticles range from 0.01 to 100 microns in largest dimension.

11. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the polymer microparticles range from 0.1 to 10 microns in largest dimension.

12. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the polymer microparticles are provided in an amount of 0.1 to 1 wt% in said suspension.

13. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the pharmaceutically active agent comprises a polynucleotide.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the pharmaceutically active agent is a cell, a plasmid or a viral vector.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the pharmaceutically active agent is a viral vector selected from an adenoviral vector and an adeno-associated viral vector.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said microparticles are polystyrene microparticles and wherein said pharmaceutically active agent is selected from a cell, a plasmid and a viral vector.

18 to 36. (Canceled)

37. (Previously Added) The method of claim 1, wherein the polymer microparticles are provided in an amount of 0.01 to 10 wt% in said suspension.

38. (Canceled)

39. (Presently Amended) The method of ~~claim 38~~ claim 1, wherein said drug delivery medical device is a catheter.

40. (Previously Added) The method of claim 39, wherein said catheter is a needle injection catheter.

41. (Previously Added) The method of claim 40, wherein said needle injection catheter is adapted for endocardial, epicardial, or pericardial administration.

42. (Presently Amended) The method of ~~claim 38~~ claim 1, wherein said drug delivery medical device is a medical device for parenteral injection.